

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 835 685 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
18.09.2002 Bulletin 2002/38

(51) Int Cl.7: **B01J 20/32, A23L 3/3436**

(21) Application number: 97117632.6

(22) Date of filing: 11.10.1997

(54) **Oxygen absorption composition**

Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammenstellung

Composition absorbante pour l'oxygène

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB NL

(30) Priority: 14.10.1996 JP 27085696
30.10.1996 JP 28839096

(43) Date of publication of application:
15.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/16

(73) Proprietor: **MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL
COMPANY, INC.**
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventors:

- Nakagawa, Kazumoto,
Mitsubishi Gas Chem. Com. Inc.
Katsushika-ku, Tokyo (JP)
- Iwai, Tatsuo, Mitsubishi Gas Chem. Com. Inc.
Katsushika-ku, Tokyo (JP)
- Watanabe, Takayuki,
Mitsubishi Gas Chem. Co. Inc.
Katsushika-ku, Tokyo (JP)
- Abe, Nahomi, Mitsubishi Gas Chem. Co. Inc.
Katsushika-ku, Tokyo (JP)

- Himeshima, Tomoharu,
Mitsubishi Gas Chem. Co. Inc.
Katsushika-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative:
Gille Hrabal Struck Neldlein Prop Roos
Patentanwälte
Brucknerstrasse 20
40593 Düsseldorf (DE)

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 454 437 US-A- 4 604 321

- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 96, no. 11
& JP 08 193001 A (MITSUBISHI GAS CHEM), 30
July 1996,
- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 40
(C-094) & JP 56 155641 A (MITSUBISHI GAS
CHEM), 1 December 1981,
- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 16, no. 509
(C-0997) & JP 04 187238 A (TOPPAN PRINTING),
3 July 1992,

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

EP 0 835 685 B1

Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition which has functions of absorbing oxygen, inorganic gases, organic gases, moisture in some case and the like without requiring moisture in absorbing oxygen, and which is used for the preservation of metallic part items, electronic part items, electric part items, precision part items, magnetic/optical part items, ornamental jewellery, weapons, aircrafts, automobiles, glass, rubber products, photographic films, foods, pharmaceuticals, pressed dried flowers, paintings, antique documents and unearthed articles from ruins. In addition, the present invention pertains to an oxygen absorption composition which is suppressed in heat generation accompanying the reaction with oxygen and also is enhanced in safety in the case of its disposal or transportation.

2. Description of Related Arts

[0002] There have heretofore been known, as an oxygen absorbent, a metallic powder, catechol, ascorbic acid and the like each as a principal component. However, since the above-mentioned oxygen absorbents require moisture in absorbing oxygen, the oxygen absorption system needs to be highly humid, thereby limiting the object of preservation in the oxygen absorption system. On the other hand, there is proposed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 29741/1992 (Heisei-4), a composition as an oxygen absorption composition which does not require moisture in the case of oxygen absorption. There is disclosed therein that an unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon and/or an unsaturated aliphatic compound are used as principal components. According to the working examples disclosed therein, there are used unsaturated fatty acids or fats and oils comprising unsaturated fatty acids as unsaturated aliphatic compounds, and polymers in liquid form of hydrocarbons having unsaturated groups as unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon. However, the unsaturated fatty acids or fats and oils comprising unsaturated fatty acids involve the problems in practical application that a large amount of gases are generated after the absorption of oxygen and that the gases are malodorous. On the other hand, the polymers in liquid form of hydrocarbons having unsaturated groups involve the problems that the liquid hydrocarbons are difficult to be supported on a carrier at the time of production because of their usually high viscosity. There is described that the polymers in liquid form of hydrocarbons having unsaturated groups are mixed with unsaturated fatty acids or fats and oils comprising unsaturated fatty acids to bring the resultant mixture to a low-viscosity principal component. Nevertheless, the problem still remains unsolved in practical application thereof in that a large amount of gases are generated causing marked malodor because of the unsaturated fatty acids or fats and oils comprising the unsaturated fatty acids that are contained in the resultant mixture, thus necessitating a large amount of a gas absorbent to absorb the generated gas. In addition, there is proposed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open NO. 115776/1993 (Heisei-5), a deoxidizing film comprising an ethylenically unsaturated hydrocarbon and a transition metal as a catalyst. In general, however, the above-proposed deoxidizing film involves the problem that a considerably long time is required for completing deoxidization.

[0003] In general, many of oxygen absorbents are accompanied by heat generation at the time of deoxidization (oxygen absorption). Thus, when such an oxygen absorbent is allowed to stand in the atmosphere, the temperature thereof is suddenly raised as the case may be, whereby delicate care is often made necessary in storage or disposal thereof, especially in the case of accumulation in large amount of oxygen absorbents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] It is an object of the present invention to provide an oxygen absorption composition which is imparted with a high oxygen absorbing capability in a preservation atmosphere from low to intermediate and high humidity, easily producible, and minimized in the generation of gases after oxygen absorption and also in odor and which does not require moisture in oxygen absorption.

[0005] It is another object of the present invention to provide an oxygen absorbent (oxygen absorption composition) which is compact and minimized in the rise of temperature of the oxygen absorbent even when it is accumulated in a large amount in an atmosphere of air under a thermally insulated condition.

[0006] Other object of the present invention will be obvious from the text of the specification hereinafter disclosed.

[0007] It has been found, in order to achieve the above-mentioned objects, that it is favorable and suitable to use, as the principal component of the oxygen absorption composition, an ① oligomer in the form of liquid which has unsaturated groups, a number-average molecular weight in the range of 150 to 4,000 and a viscosity in the range of 100 to 4,000 cP (centipoise), or an ② oligomer in the form of liquid which has an unsaturated group and is incorporated

with an oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to adjust the viscosity of the resultant mixture to 10 to 4,000 cP. It has also been found that the heat generation is effectively suppressed by adding to the oxygen absorption composition, a solid having a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C. The present invention has been accomplished on the basis of the foregoing finding and information.

[0008] That is to say, the first aspect of the present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition without requiring moisture in oxygen absorption which comprises an oxygen absorbent comprising, as a principal component, an oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group, a number-average molecular weight in the range of 150 to 4,000 and a viscosity in the range of 100 to 4,000 cP and an oxygen absorption-accelerating substance, said oligomer and said substance being supported on a carrier; and an other gas absorbent.

[0009] The second aspect of the present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition without requiring moisture in oxygen absorption which comprises an oxygen absorbent comprising as a principal component, an oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group and being incorporated with an oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to adjust the viscosity of the resultant mixture to 10 to 4,000 cP and an oxygen absorption-accelerating substance, said oligomer and said substance being supported on a carrier; and an other gas absorbent.

[0010] The third aspect of the present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition which further comprises a. dehumidifying agent.

[0011] The fourth aspect of the present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition which further comprises a moisture conditioning agent.

[0012] The fifth aspect of the present invention relates to an oxygen absorption composition which further comprises a solid having a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0013] The oxygen absorption composition according to the present invention serves for the purpose of suppressing the deterioration of an article to be preserved by placing the article to be preserved in a hermetically sealed environment substantially freed from oxygen, an inorganic gas, an organic gas and, as the case may be moisture through the accommodation of the articles to be preserved along with this oxygen absorption composition in a vessel with gas barrier properties.

[0014] The oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group as the principal component of the oxygen absorption composition according to the present invention needs to be easily producible, imparted with a high oxygen absorbing capability, and minimized in the generation of gases after oxygen absorption and also in odor. In order to meet the aforesaid requirements, said oligomer is preferably ① a low viscous compound from the viewpoints of production and oxygen absorbing capability, and is preferably ② a high molecular compound from the standpoints of decreasing gas generation. In order to meet the above-mentioned conflicting requirements ① and ②, it is desirable to employ, as the principal component, an oligomer in liquid form which contains an unsaturated group and has a number-average molecular weight of 150 to 4,000 (as measured by Vapor pressure osmosis method), preferably 300 to 3,000 more preferably 500 to 2,500 and a viscosity of 100 to 4,000 cP (as measured by a Brookfield viscometer manufactured by Tohki Sangyo Co., Ltd.), preferably 150 to 2,000 cP, more preferably 200 to 1,000 cP. Alternatively, it is also desirable from the aspect of production and performance to use, as the principal component, a mixture formed by adding an oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to an oligomer in liquid form which contains an unsaturated group to adjust the viscosity of the resultant mixture to 10 to 4,000 cP, preferably 20 to 2,000 cP, more preferably 30 to 1,000 cP.

[0015] In the case of constituting the principal component without the use of a diluent, there exists the problem with said oligomer as the principal component having a number-average molecular weight of less than 150 or a viscosity of less than 100 cP in that a high content of low molecular weight components leads to a large amount of gases generated after oxygen absorption and the like problems. On the other hand, the oligomer as the principal component having a number-average molecular weight of more than 4,000 or a viscosity of more than 4,000 cP is not practical because of the problems of low oxygen absorption rate due to the reasons that ① the oligomer is difficult to support on a carrier ② the diffusion rate of oxygen in the principal component is low, ③ sufficient surface area is not obtained in the case of the oligomer being supported on a carrier, etc.

[0016] In the case of constituting the principal component by adding an oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to the oligomer in the form of liquid having an unsaturated group for the purpose of decreasing the viscosity of the resultant mixture to 10 to 4,000 cP, it is disadvantageous and unfavorable to decrease the viscosity to less than 10 cP from the aspects of expenditure and the need of using a large amount of the oxygen absorbent.

[0017] Examples of the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group to be used in the composition of the present invention include butadiene oligomer in liquid form, isoprene oligomer in liquid form, acetylene oligomer in liquid form, styrene-butadiene copolymer in liquid form, acrylonitrile-butadiene copolymer in liquid form, chloroprene oligomer in liquid form, unsaturated polyester resin in liquid form and natural rubber. Of these, the aforesaid butadiene oligomer in liquid form is more preferable from the viewpoint of expenditure, the amount of gases generated after

oxygen absorption and odor. Any of these oligomers is not always required to be a single substance, but may be a mixture of at least two species, or a copolymer of at least two species. It is permissible in this case to accept a small amounts of impurities such as solvent mixing therein at the time of production to a reasonable extent. Moreover, the oligomer in the form of liquid having an unsaturated group to be used in the composition of the present invention may have a substituent other than the foregoing unsaturated group which substituent is exemplified by a halogen group, a hydroxyl group, a carbonyl group, an ether group, a carboxyl group and an ester. For example, the oligomer may be substituted with a functional group such as an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group, a hydroperoxy group, an epoxy group, an oxo group, a hydroxymethyl group, an acyl group, an amino group, an imino group, a nitrilo group, a nitro group, a nitroso group, an amide group, an imide group, a cyano group, an isocyano group, a cyanato group, an isocyanato group, a diazo group, a hydrazino group, an azo group and a heterocyclic group.

[0018] The butadiene oligomer in liquid form to be used in the composition of the present invention, which does not contain a side chain, is preferably a butadiene oligomer in liquid form having at least 65% of 1,4-bonding in molecular structure, and thus having a low viscosity in particular among butadiene oligomers in liquid form having an almost same molecular weight. The bonding in molecular structure was determined by nuclear magnetic resonance analysis. Of the butadiene oligomers in liquid form having 1,4-bonding and an almost same molecular weight, is more preferable a butadiene oligomer in liquid form having at least 65% of 1,4-cis bond in molecular structure, and thus having a lower viscosity. The amount of gases such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and methane that are generated from a butadiene oligomer in liquid form having 1,2-bonding, is more than the amount of said gases generated from a butadiene oligomer in liquid form having 1,4-bonding.

[0019] It is desirable that the oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to be used in the composition of the present invention, meets the requirements including ① being free from a functional group liable to be oxidized such as an unsaturated group, a hydroxyl group and an aldehyde group; ② being miscible with a hydrocarbon oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group; and ③ being at least one organic compound capable of decreasing the viscosity of an oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group. The oxygen-unabsorptive diluent is not specifically limited insofar as the above-mentioned requirements are satisfied, but is exemplified by a straight chain saturated hydrocarbon such as decane, tridecane, tetradecane and n-paraffin, an alkyl naphthalene such as liquid paraffin, and a naphthenic acid. The oxygen-unabsorptive diluent is not always required to be a single substance, but may be a mixture of at least two species. In the case where an oxygen-absorptive compound such as an unsaturated fatty acid compound, an animal oil, a vegetable oil and an alcohol, is used as a diluent to decrease the viscosity of the present composition, the amounts of the gases unfavorably increase after oxygen absorption, thus causing malodor. The proportion of the oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group is not specifically limited, but it is preferably at most 1,000 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group. An excessively increased use amount of the oxygen-unabsorptive diluent will bring about such problems of an increase in manufacturing cost and also in the amount of the oxygen absorbent to be used. Accordingly, the amount of the diluent to be used needs to be suitably selected.

[0020] The oxygen absorption-accelerating substance to be used in the composition of the present invention is exemplified by a metal compound which accelerates the oxidation of an organic compound and a radical initiator. Examples of preferable metal compounds include a salt of a transition metal such as Cu, Fe, Co, Ni, Cr and Mn, of which is more preferable a salt of a transition metal including Mn and Fe in view of oxygen absorption capacity as well as safety. Examples of preferable salts of transition metals include an inorganic salt such as a sulfate, chloride and nitrate; an organic salt such as a fatty acid salt, an acetylacetone metal salt; and an alkyl-metal salt each of a transition metal. Examples of the radical initiators include catechols, azo compounds such as 2,2-azobis(isobutyronitrile) and peroxide such as benzoyl peroxide. It is preferable that the oxygen absorption-accelerating substance be uniformly blended with the principal component after mixing.

[0021] The carrier substance to be used in the composition of the present invention is not specifically limited insofar as it has a large specific surface area and is capable of extending the area of contact between oxygen and the principal component containing the oxygen absorption-accelerating substance. Examples of the aforesaid carrier substance include paper made of natural pulp, synthetic paper made of synthetic pulp, nonwoven fabric, porous films, silica-gel, alumina, activated carbon, synthetic zeolite such as molecular sieve, natural zeolite such as mordenite and erionite, and clay minerals such as perlite, activated clay and diatomaceous earth. It is also a practical usage to select the carrier substance from the substances that are selected as a gas absorbent or a dehumidifying agent to impart gas absorbing or dehumidifying capability to the carrier substance.

[0022] As mentioned hereinbefore, the oxygen absorption composition according to the present invention comprises the above-mentioned oxygen absorbent and another gas absorbent. The aforesaid other gas absorbent absorbs principally gases other than oxygen, and in more detail, it is a substance which absorbs, prior to the oxygen absorption reaction with the principal component of oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group, highly volatile low molecular weight substances that are contained in the oligomer itself; gaseous components formed in oxygen absorption reaction such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, aldehydes, ketones and carboxylic acids;

and corrosive gaseous components in an atmosphere to be hermetically sealed such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. The other gas absorbent is not specifically limited inasmuch as it achieves the above-mentioned object, and it is exemplified by aluminum oxide; synthetic zeolite typified by molecular sieve; natural zeolite such as mordenite and erlonite; clay minerals such as perlite and activated clay; porous glass, silica-gel; activated carbon series such as activated carbon, activated carbon fiber, molecular sieving carbon and bone charcoal; oxides of an alkaline earth metal such as calcium oxide, barium oxide and magnesium oxide; hydroxides, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and slaked lime; and other absorbent such as magnesium silicate, aluminum silicate, high molecular adsorbent, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, soda lime, Ascarite, organic acid salts and organic amines. It is also a practical usage to select the other gas absorbent from the substances that are selected as a carrier for the principal component or a dehumidifying agent to impart gas absorptivity thereto. In this case, it is made unnecessary to freshly incorporate an other gas absorbent. Any of the above-exemplified other gas absorbent is not always required to be a single substance, but may be a mixture of at least two species.

[0023] A dehumidifying agent may be optionally added to the oxygen absorption composition of the present invention depending upon an article to be stored. For example, in the case of preserving an article which rejects moisture, e.g. preserving a metallic product, it is preferable to add a dehumidifying agent in a positive manner to substantially remove moisture. The dehumidifying agent to be used therefor may be selected from dehumidifying agents for general purpose including silica-gel, aluminum oxide, synthetic zeolite typified by molecular sieves, natural zeolite such as mordenite and erlonite, clay minerals such as perlite, acid clay and activated clay, porous glass, magnesium silicate, aluminum silicate, high molecular adsorbent, activated carbon, activated carbon fiber, molecular sieving carbon, bone charcoal, calcium oxide, calcium sulfate, calcium chloride, calcium bromide, barium oxide, barium bromide, barium perchlorate, magnesium chloride, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulfate, magnesium perchlorate, aluminum sulfate, sodium sulfate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, zinc chloride, zinc bromide and lithium perchlorate. It is also a practical usage to select the dehumidifying agent from the substances that are selected as a carrier for the principal component or a gas absorbent to impart dehumidifying capability thereto. In this case, there is not always need for freshly adding a dehumidifying agent. Any of the above-exemplified dehumidifying agent is not necessarily required to be a single substance, but may be a mixture of at least two species.

[0024] In the case of preserving an article to be favorably preserved at a relative humidity of 40 to 60% such as paper, books, pigments, dyes, wood, antique documents, unearthed articles, fibers and resins by the use of the oxygen absorption composition of the present invention, a moisture conditioning agent may be added to the composition in a positive manner. The moisture conditioning agent to be used therefor is not specifically limited inasmuch as it is capable of conditioning the relative humidity in a hermetically sealed atmosphere to a prescribed level, but it is exemplified by a product formed by impregnating cotton, paper or diatomaceous earth with a saturated aqueous solution of a salt. Examples of the salt include barium chloride dihydrate, potassium acetate, sodium acetate trihydrate, calcium chloride hexahydrate, calcium nitrate tetrahydrate, calcium sulfate pentahydrate, chromium trioxide, oxalic acid dihydrate, phosphoric acid semihydrate, potassium bromide, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen sulfate, potassium iodide, potassium nitrite, potassium carbonate dihydrate, potassium perchromate, lithium chloride monohydrate, magnesium acetate tetrahydrate, magnesium nitrate hexahydrate, ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, sodium bromide, sodium bromide dihydrate, sodium bromate, sodium chlorate, sodium fluoride, sodium hydrogen sulfate monohydrate, sodium iodide, sodium nitrite, sodium carbonate decahydrate, sodium dichromate dihydrate, sodium sulfate decahydrate, lead nitrate, lead nitrate hexahydrate, and zinc sulfate heptahydrate. In addition thereto, the moisture conditioning agent is also exemplified by a product formed by impregnating cotton, paper or diatomaceous earth with a mixed solution of water and glycerol; paper, cotton, leather, rubber, wood and charcoal each containing moisture of equilibrium water content. In the case where the object of preservation such as paper, cotton, leather, rubber, wood, charcoal or the like is imparted with moisture conditioning function, there is not always need for adding a moisture conditioning agent in particular.

[0025] The proportion of each of the components in the oxygen absorption composition of the invention is suitably selected in accordance with the kind or type of the substance to be used. However, the oxygen absorption-accelerating substance is in the range of 0.01 to 40 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the principal component, while the carrier substance is in the range of 1 to 1,000 parts by weight based on the same in both the case of using, as a principal component of the oxygen absorbent, the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group, a number-average molecular weight in the range of 150 to 4,000 and a viscosity in the range of 100 to 4,000 cP and the case of using, as a principal component thereof, the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group and being incorporated with an oxygen-unabsorptive diluent to adjust the viscosity of the resultant mixture to 10 to 4,000 cP.

[0026] The amount of the oxygen absorbent to be used in the oxygen absorption composition of the present invention is the amount necessary for maintaining the preservation atmosphere under a substantially oxygen-free condition for at least preservation period, and is preferably 1.1 to 10 times the aforesaid amount. The term "substantially oxygen-free condition" as mentioned herein is meant an oxygen concentration of 5% or lower, preferably 1% or lower, more preferably 0.1% or lower.

[0027] The amount of the other gas absorbent to be used in the oxygen absorption composition of the present invention varies depending upon the absorption capacity of said absorbent. It is preferable that the necessary amount be selected so that the gases contained in the principal component prior to oxygen absorption as well as the gases generated during and after the oxygen absorption can be substantially removed. Specifically, it is in the range of 1 to 5,000 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the principal component.

[0028] In the case where the dehumidifying agent is used in the present invention, the amount to be used is an amount capable of substantially removing the moisture at least in the space volume inside the hermetically sealed vessel having gas barrier properties. It is preferably 1.1 to 500 times the aforesaid amount, and is suitably selected in accordance with the gas barrier performance of the hermetically sealed vessel having gas barrier properties. The term "substantially removing the moisture" as mentioned herein is meant a relative humidity of 10% or lower, preferably 5% or lower, more preferably 1% or lower.

[0029] In the case where the moisture conditioning agent is used in the present invention, the amount to be used is at least an amount necessary for maintaining the relative humidity in the hermetically sealed vessel having gas barrier properties at a prescribed level for each of the articles to be preserved. Preferably it is 1.1 to 500 times the aforesaid amount.

[0030] The present invention further provides an oxygen absorption composition capable of suppressing heat generation by adding a solid which has a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C to the oxygen absorption composition comprising the above-described oxygen absorbent, other gas absorbent, and as desired, the dehumidifying agent and moisture conditioning agent. It is also effective to directly add the above-mentioned solid to the oxygen absorbent. The solid to be added thereto is exemplified by a variety of species, provided that it has a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C.

[0031] In general, the capability of suppressing heat generation increases with an increase in the total heat of fusion (product of heat of fusion per unit weight and weight) of the solid in question. However, when comparing a solid having a large heat of fusion per unit weight with a solid having a small heat of fusion per unit weight in a quantity larger than that of the former so as to equalize the total heat of fusion therebetween, the former is capable of instantaneously and locally removing a large heat of fusion as compared with the latter, thus enabling itself to more effectively remove the generated heat. That is to say, a solid having a large heat of fusion per unit weight can exert an effect on the suppression of heat generation in a quantity much less than that of a solid having a small heat of fusion per unit weight. Consequently, a heat of fusion per unit weight of a solid is preferably large as much as possible, that is, at least 190 mJ/mg. On the other hand, a solid having a small heat of fusion per unit weight must be added to the oxygen absorbent in a larger amount, thereby bringing about a marked increase in the amount of the oxygen absorption composition, and lowering its practical applicability.

[0032] However, among the solids each having a heat of fusion as determined by DSC according to JIS K7121, of 190 mJ/mg or more, a solid having an excessively low melting point melts away in the case of, for example, using the oxygen absorbent at an elevated temperature, thus unfavorably inhibiting the necessary oxygen absorbing reaction. On the contrary, a solid having an excessively high melting point is unfavorable because of difficulty in suppressing heat generation within a safe temperature range. In view of the foregoing, the melting point of the solid in question is 80 to 150°C, preferably 90 to 140°C, more preferably 100 to 130°C.

[0033] Examples of solids having a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C include thermoplastic resins such as polyethylene and polyoxymethylene, higher fatty acids, higher fatty acid esters and higher hydrocarbons, each of which may be used in the form of a mixture. Of these, polyethylene is preferable because of its easy availability and inexpensiveness, and in particular, it is more preferably polyethylene having a crystallinity of at least 65%. The crystallinity of polyethylene is determined by the Density method [JIS K6760 and Polyethylene, Lecture on Plastics Materials, The Nikkan Kogyo Simbun Ltd. (The Daily Industrial News)].

[0034] Polyethylene, which is a crystalline high polymer, is preferably that having a crystallinity of at least 65%, since a crystalline portion is structurally more stable than a non-crystalline portion, and thus a higher crystallinity leads to a higher density and a large heat of fusion per unit weight. The polyethylene to be used in the present invention may be copolymerized with another monomer such as propylene and 1-butene, provided that the resultant copolymer has a heat of fusion per unit weight of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C.

[0035] The amount of the solid having a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C to be added is not always definite, but varies depending upon the heating value of the oxygen absorbent, the heat of fusion of said solid, constitution of the oxygen absorption composition when the oxygen absorbent is incorporated with an other gas absorbent and, as desired, a dehumidifying agent or a moisture conditioning agent, and the atmosphere in which the oxygen absorption composition is in service. However, the amount of said solid is usually in the range of 50 to 400 parts by weight, preferably 80 to 300 parts by weight, more preferably 100 to 200 parts by weight each based on 100 parts by weight of the principal component. The amount thereof, when being less than 50 parts by weight, is unfavorable because of limited effect on the suppression of heat generation at the time of oxygen absorption, whereas the amount thereof, when being more than 400 parts by weight, is also unfavorable because of an unreason-

able increase in the amount of the oxygen absorption composition accompanied with expensiveness.

[0036] The shape and size of the aforesaid solid is not specifically limited, but is required to be brought to a state in which the solid comes in sufficient contact with the principal component and cover the surrounding thereof. In view of the foregoing, excessively angular or large solid is unfavorable. Taking into consideration the classification and handleability when the solid is mixed with each of the components of the oxygen absorption composition, said solid is preferably in the form of powder or granule such as small beads with a particle diameter in the range of 3.5 to 350 mesh, preferably 5 to 200 mesh, more preferably 10 to 150 mesh.

[0037] It is possible, in the oxygen absorption composition of the present invention, to use it by mixing each of the components, that is, the oxygen absorbent, other gas absorbent, dehumidifying agent, moisture conditioning agent and solid for suppressing heat generation (heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C). It is also possible therein to use it by mixing the oxygen absorbent and the solid for suppressing heat generation and separating the other gas absorbent, dehumidifying agent and moisture conditioning agent each as a single agent.

[0038] Any of the single agents and mixture are suitably used in the form of powder, granule, tablet, sheet or the like according to the situations. It is unfavorable to bring any of the oxygen absorbent, other gas absorbent, dehumidifying agent and moisture conditioning agent into direct contact with the material to be preserved in the vessel. Accordingly, it is usually used in the form of package in which the absorbent or the agent is packed with an air permeable packing material composed of, for example, paper, nonwoven fabric or plastics as a base material. The oxygen absorbent may be packed in part or in whole along with any or all of the other gas absorbent, dehumidifying agent and the moisture conditioning agent, or may be individually packed. The package is not specifically limited in its form, packaging material and constitution, but may be in the form of small bag, sheet or blister (bubble) package according to the purpose of use. In addition, it is possible as a dust-proof measure to duplicate the package by further covering the aforementioned package with a dust-proof packaging material which does not hinder the permeability of inorganic gas, organic gas and moisture nor discharge the dust generated from the package outside the duplicate package. However, in the case where dust-proof measure is taken for the package itself, the package need not be covered with a dust-proof packaging material. It is preferable that said vessel be enhanced in gas barrier properties and made of plastics, film bag, metal, glass or the like according to the purpose of use. With regard to a film bag as an example, it is preferable to use an material having high gas barrier properties such as a film laminated with metallic foils such as aluminium foils and laminate film which is vapor-deposited with silicon oxide or aluminium oxide. The value of the gas barrier properties of the hermetically sealed vessel having gas barrier properties is usually preferably $10 \text{ cc/m}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{atm}$ or less expressed in terms of oxygen permeability at 25°C, 60% RH (relative humidity) and $1 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot \text{day}$ or less expressed in terms of water vapor transmission rate at 40°C, 90% RH. At the time of preserving the articles in the vessel by hermetically sealing the vessel, the atmosphere in the vessel may be replaced with a dry inert gas such as nitrogen and argon, as the replacement with the gas preferably leads to a decrease in the use amounts of the oxygen absorbent, other gas absorbent and dehumidifying agent.

[0039] Since the oxygen absorption composition according to the present invention need not moisture in absorbing oxygen, it is usable in every humidity atmosphere from low humidity to intermediate and high humidity. The object of preservation is not specifically limited, but is exemplified by metallic wiring materials such as wire and ribbon, ceramics bodies, various metals, plastics, paper, part items composed of cloth with metal deposited film, strings for musical instruments, printed wire board, powdery raw materials for super-hard materials, metals such as copper, silver, aluminium, nickel, tin and solder, alloys, alloy powders, oxidizable powders for sintering, magnetic materials or heat resistant raw materials, metals for general purpose, semiconductor and semiconductor part items such as lead frames, IC chips, silicon wafers, shadow masks and bare chips, electronic part items and electronic materials such as electronic circuit board, precision part items such as bearings for rotational parts and free cutting steel parts, noble metal-plated articles, ornament such as finger ring, breast pin, necklace and spectacle, ornaments for alcove such as clock, mirror and jewellery, magnetro-optical part items such as magnetic tape, floppy disk and optical disk, camera, microscope, telescope lens, optical fiber glass for optical communication, precision optical part items such as lens used for optical machinery and equipment such as copying machine and laser printer, weapons such as gun and rocket, aircrafts such as air plane and helicopter, driving cars such as automobile and combat cars, solders such as solder paste, engines, conveyors, molds, dies, tacky tape for package and electronic parts surface mounting, adhesives, toys, biodegradable polymer, plastics, tires, tubes, hoses, belts, o-rings, gaskets, insulating cover, cushions, vibration insulators, coating materials, pharmaceuticals, rubber products for sports, resins, fibers, cloths, fur, paint, negative films, photographic articles such as color printings, moving picture films, paintings, pigments, dyes, pressed dried flower, dried flower, books, antique books and documents, unearthed articles from ruins such as earthenware and clay figures, unearthed wooden articles such as narrow wooden strips on which an official message is written and wood working tools, unearthed metallic articles, liver dried, seasoned and prepared for food, dried food such as coffee, peanut and rice crackers, food for general use, drugs and reagents.

[0040] As described hereinbefore, the present invention provides an oxygen absorption composition which has high oxygen absorption capacity in every preservation atmosphere from low humidity to high humidity and which is easily

producible, minimized in gas generation after oxygen absorption, almost odorless, and in no need of moisture in oxygen absorption.

[0041] In the following, the present invention will be described in more detail with reference to comparative examples and working examples, which however shall not limit the present invention thereto.

Example 1

[0042] A uniform solution was obtained by mixing 1.25 g of a butadiene oligomer in liquid form as the principle component (1,4-cis bond of 74%, number-average molecular weight of 1800 and viscosity of 650 cP) and 31 mg of manganese naphthenate (Mn content of 4% by weight). The resultant uniform solution was supported on 4 g of natural zeolite as the carrier. To the solution and carrier were added 0.5 g of crushed activated carbon and 4 g of magnesium oxide, and the resultant mixture was packed in a small bag made of air-peameable packaging material (paper/perforated polyethylene having inside dimensions of 50 mm by 100 mm). Subsequently, the small bag was sealed on the periphery thereof to produce a package.

[0043] The package thus produced along with 500 cc of air having 60% RH (relative humidity) at 25°C was sealed up in a plastic bag laminated with an aluminum foil (dimensions of 220 mm by 300 mm) (hereinafter referred to as "AI bag").

[0044] The resultant AI bag was preserved in an atmosphere of 60% RH at 25°C, a deoxidization time (period of time required for attaining a concentration of oxygen in the system of 0.1% or lower) was measured and the chemical composition of the gas inside the AI bag after the deoxidization was analyzed. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 2

[0045] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the principal component was altered to a butadiene oligomer in liquid form (1,4-trans bond of 60%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,200 and a viscosity of 2,000 cP). The results are given in Table 1.

Example 3

[0046] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the principal component was altered to a butadiene oligomer in liquid form (1,4-cis bond of 80%, a number-average molecular weight of 3,000 and a viscosity of 2,500 cP). The results are given in Table 1.

Example 4

[0047] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 1.

Example 5

[0048] The procedure in Example 3 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 1.

Comparative Example 1

[0049] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the principal component was altered to a butadiene oligomer in liquid form (1,2-bond of 89%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,100 and a viscosity of 6,000 cP). The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 2

[0050] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the principal component was altered to an isoprene oligomer in liquid form (a number-average molecular weight of 13,000 and a viscosity of 13,000 cP). The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 3

[0051] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the principal component was altered to a butadiene

oligomer in liquid form (1,4-trans bond of 60%, a number-average molecular weight of 2,800 and a viscosity of 8,000 cP). The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 4

[0052] The procedure in Comparative Example 1 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 5

[0053] The procedure in Comparative Example 2 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 6

[0054] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that there were used an isoprene oligomer in liquid form as the principal component (a number-average molecular weight of 13,000 and a viscosity of 13,000 cP) together with soybean oil as a diluent at a ratio of 40/60 by weight. The results are given in Table 2.

Comparative Example 7

[0055] The procedure in Comparative Example 6 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 2.

Example 6

[0056] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that talloil fatty acid manganese (manganese content of 4% by weight) was used in place of manganese naphthenate. The results are given in Table 3.

Example 7

[0057] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that cobalt naphthenate (cobalt content of 4% by weight) was used in place of manganese naphthenate. The results are given in Table 3.

Example 8

[0058] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that molecular sieve 13 X was used in place of natural zeolite. The results are given in Table 3.

Example 9

[0059] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that iron oleate (iron content of 5.9% by weight) was used in place of manganese naphthenate, and diatomaceous earth was used in place of natural zeolite. The results are given in Table 3.

Example 10

[0060] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that manganese naphthenate (manganese content of 4% by weight) was used in an amount of 155 mg instead of 31 mg. The results are given in Table 3.

Example 11

[0061] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the crushed activated carbon was used in an amount of 4.0 g instead of 0.5 g. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 12

[0062] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that powdery activated carbon was used in place of the

crushed activated carbon. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 13

- 5 [0063] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that molecular sieve 13 X was used in place of the crushed activated carbon. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 14

- 10 [0064] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that the natural zeolite was used in an amount of 8.0 g instead of 4.0 g. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 15

- 15 [0065] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that CaO was used in place of MgO. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 16

- 20 [0066] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that MgO was used in an amount of 8 g instead of 4 g. The results are given in Table 4.

Example 17

- 25 [0067] A uniform solution was prepared by mixing 1.25 g of a butadiene oligomer in liquid form as the principal component (1,2-bond of 89%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,100 and a viscosity of 6,000 cP), 3.75 g of liquid paraffin and 31 mg of manganese naphthenate (Mn content of 4% by weight). The resultant composition was supported on 11.25 g of natural zeolite as the carrier. To the solution and carrier were added 0.5 g of crushed activated carbon and 4 g of MgO. The resultant mixture was packed in a small bag made of air-permeable packaging material (paper/perforated polyethylene having inside dimensions of 100 mm by 100 mm). Then, the small bag was sealed up on the periphery thereof to produce a package.

30 [0068] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated to measure a deoxidization time and analyze the chemical composition of the gas inside the Al bag after the deoxidization. The results are given in Table 5.

35 Example 18

[0069] The procedure in Example 17 was repeated except that isoprene oligomer in liquid form (a number-average molecular weight of 13,000 and a viscosity of 13,000 cP) was used in place of the butadiene oligomer in liquid form (1,2-bond of 89%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,100 and a viscosity of 6,000 cP). The results are given in Table 5.

40

Example 19

[0070] The procedure in Example 17 was repeated except that tetradecane was used in place of liquid paraffin. The results are given in Table 5.

45

Example 20

[0071] The procedure in Example 17 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 5.

50

Example 21

[0072] The procedure in Example 18 was repeated except that the addition of the crushed activated carbon was omitted. The results are given in Table 5.

55

Example 22

[0073] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that there were used the butadiene oligomer in liquid form as the principal component (1,2-bond of 89%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,100 and a viscosity of 6,000 cP) together with tetradecane as a diluent at a ratio by weight of 60/40. The results are given in Table 5.

Example 23

[0074] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that there were used the butadiene oligomer in liquid form as the principal component (1,2-bond of 89%, a number-average molecular weight of 1,100 and a viscosity of 6,000 cP) together with tetradecane as a diluent at a ratio by weight of 88/12. The results are given in Table 5.

Example 24

[0075] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that 1 g of slaked lime was used in place of 4 g of MgO, and to the oxygen absorption composition was added 10 g of a moisture conditioning agent which was prepared by impregnating absorbent cotton with 10 g of a moisture conditioning solution (glycerol/water ratio of 80/20). The results are given in Table 6.

Example 25

[0076] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that 1 g of slaked lime was used in place of 4 g of MgO, and to the oxygen absorption composition was added a moisture conditioning agent (10 sheets of copying paper). The results are given in Table 6.

Example 26

[0077] The procedure in Example 1 was repeated except that 3.4 g of water was placed in the AL bag. The results are given in Table 6.

Table 1

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO	LBO	LBO
Structure of principal component					
1,2-(%)	1	20	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	20	80	74	80
1,4-trans(%)	25	60	19	25	19
Weight of principal component(g)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1800	1200	3000	1800	3000

Table 1 (continued)

	Testing Example	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
5	Viscosity of principal component (cP)	650	2000	2500	650	2500
10	Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
15	Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31	31	31
20	Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
	Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4	4	4
25	Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	none	none
30	Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5		
	Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO	MgO	MgO
35	Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4	4	4
40	Time required for deoxidation (days)	1	5	5	1	5
45	Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization					
50	O ₂ (%)	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.06	0.03
	CO (%)	0.17	0.2	0.14	0.2	0.15
	CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	0.15	n.d.	0.06	n.d.
	H ₂ (%)	0.06	0.1	0.04	0.05	0.05
55	%RH	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.5

Table 1 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Organic gas (ppm)	43	50	38	80	40
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless	somewhat rubbery odor	somewhat rubbery odor
Easiness of preparation	easy	somewhat difficult	somewhat difficult	easy	somewhat difficult
Remarks				carrier also functioning the other gas absorbent	carrier also functioning the other gas absorbent
Note 1) LBO : liquid butadiene oligomer 2) Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization : measured after 7 days as a general rule. In the case of more than 7 days required up to deoxidization, analysis was made on the day of the end of deoxidization.					

Table 2-1

Testing Example	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4
Principal component	LBO	LJO	LBO	LBO
Structure of principal component				
1,2-(%)	89		20	89
1,4-cis(%)	0		20	0
1,4-trans(%)	11		60	11
Weight of liquid oligomer	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1100	13000	2800	1100
Diluent	none	none	none	none
Weight of diluent				
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	6000	13000	8000	6000
Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate

Table 2-1 (continued)

	Testing Example	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4
5	Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31	31
10	Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
	Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4	4
15	Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	none
	Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5		
20	Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO	MgO
	Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4	4
25					
	Time required for deoxidation (days)	10	15	13	10
30	Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization				
35	O ₂ (%)	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.04
	CO (%)	0.32	0.30	0.35	0.39
	CO ₂ (%)	0.29	0.45	0.20	0.36
	H ₂ (%)	0.15	0.11	0.15	0.19
	%RH	1.1	1	1.3	1.5
40	Organic gas (ppm)	130	430	80	150
	Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless	somewhat rubbery odor
45					
	Easiness of preparation	difficult	difficult	difficult	difficult
50	Remarks				carrier also functioning as the other gas absorbent
Note 1) LIO : liquid isoprene oligomer					

Table 2-2

	Testing Example	Comparative Example 5	Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7
5	Principal component	LIO	LIO	LIO
	Structure of principal component			
10	1,2-(%) 1,4-cis(%) 1,4-trans(%)			
15	Weight of liquid oligomer (g)	1.25		0.6
	Molecular weight	13000	13000	13000
20	Diluent	none	soybean oil	soybean oil
	Weight of diluent (g)		0.75	0.75
25	Viscosity of principal component(cP)	13000	500	500
30	Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
	Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	natural	natural
35	Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
	Weight of carrier (g)	4	4 crushed	4
40	Other gas absorbent	none	activated carbon	none
	Weight of other gas absorbent (g)		0.5	
45	Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO
	Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4
50	Time required for deoxidation (days)	15	2	2
55	Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			

Table 2-2 (continued)

Testing Example	Comparative Example 5	Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7
O ₂ (%)	0.06	0.04	0.04
CO (%)	0.34	0.90	1.02
CO ₂ %	0.48	0.55	0.60
H ₂ (%)	0.16	0.09	0.08
%RH	1	1.4	1.5
Organic gas (ppm)	650	600	1400
Odor in gas barrier bag	somewhat rubbery odor	putrefied oil odor	putrefied oil odor
Easiness of preparation	difficult	easy	easy
Remarks	carrier also functioning as the other gas absorbent		carrier also functioning as the other gas absorbent
Note 1) LIO : liquid isoprene oligomer			

Table 3 - 1

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 6	Example 7
Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO
Structure of principal component			
1, 2-(%)	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	74	74
1,4-trans(%)	25	25	25
Weight of principal component(g)	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1800	1800	1800
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	650	650	650
Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese talloil fatty acid	cobalt naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31
Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4
Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 3 - 1 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 6	Example 7
5 Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO
10 Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4
Time required for deoxidation (days)	1	1	2
15 Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			
O ₂ (%)	0.04	0.03	0.04
20 CO (%)	0.17	0.18	0.16
CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	n.d.	0.07
H ₂ (%)	0.06	0.05	0.08
%RH	0.09	1.7	1.4
25 Organic gas (ppm)	43	41	41
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless
30 Easefulness of preparation	easy	easy	easy

Table 3 - 2

Testing Example	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
35 Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO
Structure of principal component			
40 1,2-(%)	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	74	74
1,4-trans(%)	25	25	25
45 Weight of principal component(g)	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1800	1800	1800
50 Viscosity of principal component(cP)	650	650	650
55 Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	iron oleate	manganese naphthenate

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 3 - 2 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	155
Carrier	M. S. 13X	diatomaceous earth	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4
Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon
Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO
Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4
Time required for deoxidation (days)	4	4	1
Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			
O ₂ (%)	0.03	0.03	0.05
CO (%)	0.02	0.22	0.3
CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	0.05	0.06
H ₂ (%)	0.12	0.15	0.05
%RH	1.1	1.5	1.4
Organic gas (ppm)	53	130	140
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	somewhat rubbery odor	odorless
Easiness of preparation	easy	easy	easy

Table 4-1

Testing Example	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13
Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO
Structure of principal component			
1,2-(%)	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	74	74
1,4-trans(%)	25	25	25
Weight of principal component(g)	1.25	1.25	1.25

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 4-1 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13
5 Molecular weight	1800	1800	1800
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	650	650	650
10 Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31
15 Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4
20 Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	powdery activated carbon	M.S.13X
Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	4	0.5	0.5
25 Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO
Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4
30 Time required for deoxidation (days)	1	1	1
35 Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			
O ₂ (%)	0.03	0.03	0.08
CO (%)	0.12	0.19	0.16
40 CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
H ₂ (%)	0.04	0.07	0.06
%RH	1.7	1.2	1.5
Organic gas (ppm)	30	50	62
45 Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless
Easiness of preparation	easy	easy	easy
Note : M. S. 13X -- molecular sieve 13X			

Table 4-2

Testing Example	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16
55 Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 4-2 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16
Structure of principal component			
1,2-(%)	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	74	74
1,4-trans(%)	25	25	25
Weight of principal component (g)	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1800	1800	1800
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	650	650	650
Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31
Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	8	4	4
Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon
Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Dehumidifying agent	MgO	CaO	MgO
Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	8
Time required for deoxidation (days)	1	1	1
Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			
O ₂ (%)	0.04	0.04	0.04
CO (%)	0.15	0.17	0.16
CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
H ₂ (%)	0.09	0.06	0.06
%RH	1.2	1.2	1.2
Organic gas (ppm)	35	43	40
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 4-2 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16
Easiness of preparation	easy	easy	easy
Note : M.S.13X - molecular sieve 13X			

Table 5-1

Testing Example	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
Liquid oligomer	LBO	LIO	LBO	LBO
Structure of oligomer				
1,2-(%)	89		89	89
1,4-cis(%)	0		0	0
1,4-trans(%)	11		11	11
Viscosity of liquid oligomer (cP)	6000	13000	6000	6000
Weight of liquid oligomer (g)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Diluent	liquid paraffin	liquid paraffin	tetradecane	liquid paraffin
Weight of diluent (g)	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	300	500	30	300
Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31	31
Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25
Other gas absorbent	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon	none
Weight of other gas absorbent (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5	

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 5-1 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO	MgO
Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4	4
Time required for deoxidation (days)	3	3	3	3
Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization				
O ₂ (%)	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
CO (%)	0.3	0.31	0.35	0.33
CO ₂ (%)	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.34
H ₂ (%)	0.18	0.09	0.16	0.15
%RH	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3
Organic gas (ppm)	120	450	120	135
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless	somewhat rubbery odor
Easiness of preparation	easy	easy	easy	easy
Remarks				carrier also functioning as the other gas absorbent

Table 5-2

Testing Example	Example 21	Example 22	Example 23
Liquid oligomer	LIO	LBO	LBO
Structure of oligomer			
1,2-(%)		89	89
1,4-cis(%)		0	0
1,4-trans(%)		11	11
Viscosity of liquid oligomer (cP)	13000	6000	6000
Weight of liquid oligomer (g)	1.25	0.75	1.1
Diluent	liquid paraffin	tetradecane	tetradecane

EP 0 835 685 B1

Table 5-2 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 21	Example 22	Example 23
5 Weight of diluent (g)	3.75	0.5	0.15
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	500	50	800
10 Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31
15 Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
20 Weight of carrier (g)	11.25	4.4	4
Other gas absorbent	none	crushed activated carbon	crushed activated carbon
25 Weight of other gas absorbent (g)		0.5	0.5
Dehumidifying agent	MgO	MgO	MgO
30 Weight of dehumidifying agent(g)	4	4	4
Time required for deoxidation (days)	3.3		6
35 Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization			
40 O ₂ (%)	0.06	0.07	0.05
CO (%)	0.31	0.31	0.36
CO ₂ (%)	0.41	0.28	0.3
H ₂ (%)	0.12	0.14	0.14
%RH	1.2	1.1	1.1
45 Organic gas (ppm)	700	100	130
Odor in gas barrier bag	somewhat rubbery odor	odorless	odorless
50 Ease of preparation	easy	easy	easy
Remarks	carrier also functioning as the other gas absorbent		

55

Table 6

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 24	Example 25	Example 26
Oxygen absorption composition				
Principal component	LBO	LBO	LBO	LBO
Structure of oligomer				
1,2-(%)	1	1	1	1
1,4-cis(%)	74	74	74	74
1,4-trans(%)	25	25	25	25
Weight of principal component (g)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Molecular weight	1800	1800	1800	1800
Viscosity of principal component(cP)	650	650	650	650
Oxygen absorption accelerating substance	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate	manganese naphthenate
Weight of oxygen absorption accelerating substance(mg)	31	31	31	31
Carrier	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite	natural zeolite
Weight of carrier (g)	4	4	4	4
Other gas absorbent				
Crushed activated carbon (g)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Slaked lime (g)	none	1	1	1
Dehumidifying agent				
Weight of MgO (g)	4	none	none	4
Water added (g)	none	none	none	3.4

Table 6 (continued)

Testing Example	Example 1	Example 24	Example 25	Example 26
Moisture conditioning agent	none	10 g	10-sheets	none
Time required for deoxidation (days)	1	1	1	1
Analysis of gas in the system after deoxidization				
O ₂ (%)	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
CO (%)	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.18
CO ₂ (%)	n.d.	0.05	0.08	n.d.
H ₂ (%)	0.06	0.16	0.05	0.07
%RH	0.9	51	70	100
Organic gas (ppm)	43	52	60	66
Odor in gas barrier bag	odorless	odorless	odorless	odorless
Easiness of preparation	easy	easy	easy	easy

[0078] The following examples are those in which polyethylene was compounded to suppress heat generation. In the calculation of polyethylene crystallinity, there were used a density of the perfect crystal of 1.000 g/cm³ and a density of the perfect non-crystal of 0.856 g/cm³.

[0079] A measurement was made at room temperature, of the exothermic temperature of the composition under ventilating heat insulation condition in the following manner. A cylindrical stainless-steel wire mesh cage (30 cm in diameter, 15 cm in height and 0.5 cm in wire mesh opening) was covered inside with absorbent cotton of about 2 cm in thickness. Then 100 pieces of oxygen absorption composition packages were placed inside the absorbent cotton, and the top of the cage was covered therewith in the same manner. A thermocouple was inserted from the top to the middle of the cage to measure the maximum temperature.

[0080] The measurement was made, at an ambient constant temperature of 140°C, of the exothermic temperature of the composition in accordance with "Testing method for evaluating the risk of substances and description of judgement criteria" IMDG CODE (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code). Specifically, into a cubical top-opened cage with a side length of 10 cm made of stainless-steel wire mesh (0.053 mm mesh) was placed a powdery article to be tested up to the top line of the cage. A thermocouple was inserted into the cage to the middle of the powdery article to be tested (middle of the cage), then the cage was suspended in a dryer at a constant temperature of 140°C for 24 hours, and a measurement was made of the maximum temperature. The article which showed a marked rise in temperature exceeding 200°C was marked as "Over 200°C."

Example 27

[0081] A uniform solution was obtained by mixing 125 parts by weight of the butadiene oligomer in liquid form same as that in Example 1 and 3.1 part by weight of a tall oil fatty acid cobalt. The resultant uniform solution was impregnated into 375 parts by weight of natural zeolite and supported thereon. To the resultant mixture was added under mixing, 150 parts by weight of high density polyethylene having a heat of fusion (by DSC) of 268 mJ/mg, a melting point (by DSC) of 128°C, a crystallinity of 74%, an average molecular weight of 4,000 and a particle size distribution of 20 to 150 mesh. Thereafter to the resultant mixture were added 100 parts by weight of activated carbon as an other gas absorbent, and 10 parts by weight of mixed solution of glycerol/water at a ratio by weight of 80/20 as the moisture conditioning agent to prepare an oxygen absorbent composition. Subsequently the composition thus obtained was packed in a small bag made of air-permeable packaging material (paper/perforated polyethylene having inside dimen-

sions of 50 mm by 100 mm). Then the small bag was sealed up on the periphery thereof to prepare a packaged oxygen absorption composition. Thus, a measurement was made of the exothermic temperature of each of 100 pieces of the resultant packaged oxygen absorption composition under ventilating heat insulation at 25°C. As a result, the maximum temperature was suppressed to 74°C and no discoloration was recognized in the external appearance of the package.
 5 On the other hand, a measurement was made of the exothermic temperature of the oxygen absorption composition without packaging the same at a constant ambient temperature of 140°C. As a result, the maximum temperature was 144°C.

Example 28

10 [0082] The procedure in Example 27 was repeated except that 400 parts by weight of calcium oxide as the dehumidifying agent was used in place of the mixed solution of glycerol/water as the moisture conditioning agent. As a result, the maximum exothermic temperature of the packaged oxygen absorption composition under ventilating heat insulation condition at 25°C was suppressed to 75°C, and the maximum exothermic temperature of the same at a
 15 constant temperature of 140°C was 116°C.

Claims

- 20 1. An oxygen absorption composition not requiring moisture in oxygen absorption, which comprises an oxygen absorbent comprising,
 - as a principal component an oligomer in liquid form having unsaturated groups, or a mixture thereof with a diluent which does not absorb oxygen, and
 - an oxygen absorption-accelerating substance,
 - 25 both said oligomer or said mixture and said oxygen absorption-accelerating substance being supported on a carrier,
 - and another gas absorbent,
 - wherein said oligomer has a number-average molecular weight in the range of 150 to 4,000 and a viscosity of 100 to 4,000 cP and said mixture has a viscosity of 10 to 4,000 cP.
- 30 2. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 1, wherein the oligomer in liquid form having an unsaturated group is a butadiene oligomer in liquid form.
3. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 2, wherein the butadiene oligomer in liquid form has at
 35 least 65 % of 1,4-bond in the molecular structure thereof.
4. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 2, wherein the butadiene oligomer in liquid form has at least 65 % of 1,4-cis bond in the molecular structure thereof.
- 40 5. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises a dehumidifying agent.
6. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises a moisture conditioning agent.
- 45 7. The oxygen absorption composition according to any of Claims 1, 5 or 6, wherein said composition further comprises a solid which has a heat of fusion of at least 190 mJ/mg and a melting point in the range of 80 to 150°C.
8. The oxygen absorption composition according to Claim 7, wherein said solid is a polyethylene having a crystallinity
 50 of at least 65 %.

Patentansprüche

- 55 1. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung, welche keine Feuchtigkeit bei der Sauerstoffabsorption erfordert, welche ein Sauerstoffabsorptionsmittel umfasst, umfassend:
 - als Hauptkomponente ein Oligomer in flüssiger Form mit ungesättigten Gruppen

oder eine Mischung davon mit einem Verdünnungsmittel, das keinen Sauerstoff absorbiert, und

eine die Sauerstoffabsorption beschleunigende Substanz,
wobei sowohl das Oligomer oder die Mischung und die die Sauerstoffabsorption beschleunigende Sub-
stanz auf einem Träger getragen werden,

und ein weiteres Gasabsorptionsmittel,
wobei das Oligomer ein zahlenmittleres Molekulargewicht im Bereich von 150 bis 4000 und eine Visko-
sität von 100 bis 4000 cP besitzt und die Mischung eine Viskosität von 10 bis 4000 cP besitzt.

2. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Oligomer in flüssiger Form mit einer unge-
sättigten Gruppe ein Butadien-Oligomer in flüssiger Form ist.
3. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 2, wobei das Butadien-Oligomer in flüssiger Form min-
destens 65 % einer 1,4-Bindung in der molekularen Struktur davon aufweist.
4. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 2, wobei das Butadien-Oligomer in flüssiger Form min-
destens 65 % einer 1,4-cis-Bindung in der molekularen Struktur davon aufweist.
5. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Zusammensetzung weiter ein Entfeuch-
tungsmittel umfasst.
6. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Zusammensetzung weiter ein Feuchtigkeits-
Konditionierungsmittel besitzt.
7. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach einem der Ansprüche 1, 5 oder 6, wobei die Zusammensetzung
weiter eine Feststoffsubstanz aufweist, welche eine Schmelzwärme von mindestens 190 mJ/mg und einen
Schmelzpunkt im Bereich von 80 bis 150°C besitzt.
8. Sauerstoffabsorptionszusammensetzung nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Feststoffsubstanz ein Polyethylen mit einer
Kristallinität von mindestens 65 % ist.

Revendications

1. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène, n'exigeant pas d'humidité au cours de l'absorption d'oxygène, qui com-
prend un agent absorbant de l'oxygène comprenant,
en tant que composant principal, un oligomère sous forme liquide ayant des groupements insaturés, ou un
mélange de ces derniers, avec un diluant qui n'absorbe pas l'oxygène, et
une substance accélérant l'absorption de l'oxygène,
ledit oligomère ou ledit mélange et ladite substance accélérant l'absorption de l'oxygène étant tous les deux
supportés sur un agent support,
et un autre gaz absorbant,
caractérisée en ce que ledit oligomère a un poids moléculaire moyen au nombre dans la plage de 150 à 4
000 et une viscosité de 100 à 4 000 cP et en ce que ledit mélange a une viscosité de 10 à 4 000 cP.
2. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que l'oligomère sous forme
liquide ayant un groupement insaturé est un oligomère du butadiène sous forme liquide.
3. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 2, caractérisée en ce que l'oligomère du butadiène
sous forme liquide a au moins 65 % de liaisons 1,4 dans sa structure moléculaire.
4. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 2, caractérisée en ce que l'oligomère du butadiène
sous forme liquide a au moins 65 % de liaisons 1,4-cis dans sa structure moléculaire.
5. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que ladite composition com-
prend en outre un agent de déshumidification.

EP 0 835 685 B1

6. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que ladite composition comprend en outre un agent de conditionnement de l'humidité.
- 5 7. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1, 5 ou 6, caractérisée en ce que ladite composition comprend en outre un solide qui a une chaleur de fusion d'au moins 190 mJ/mg et un point de fusion dans la plage de 80 à 150 °C.
- 10 8. Composition d'absorption de l'oxygène selon la revendication 7, caractérisée en ce que ledit solide est un polyéthylène ayant une cristallinité d'au moins 65 %.

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☒ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.